

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 EB-08 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 /044 R

DRAFTED BY LABOR/ILAB:GHM:MKB
APPROVED BY STATE/EA/RA:RJMARTENS
STATE/EA/RA:DHARRIS
LABOR/ILAB:HBLACKMAN (SUBS)
LABOR/ILAB:EMLONERGAN (INFO)
TATE/EA/J:HCOCHRAN

-----113533 011337Z /43

R 010252Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: EXPANDING CONTACTS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
MINISTRY OF LABOR.

REFERENCES: A) TOKYO 00581 B) TOKYO 1057

1. DOL PLEASED THAT MOL SEEMS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES (REF A) AND PROPOSES TO INVITE
VICE MINISTER FUJINAWA TO U.S. TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF
SUCH A DIALOGUE.

2. DOL PROPOSES THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH FUJINAWA COVER THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN MOL-DOL DIALOGUE, INCLUDING ITS NATURE,
SCOPE AND TIMING, AND THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF
CABINET LEVEL VISITS (REF B). ADDITIONALLY, VISIT WOULD
PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS
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OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND DOL WOULD ARRANGE VISITS FOR
FUJINAWA WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHICH
MAY BE OF INTEREST TO HIM. DOL WOULD PREFER SPRING OR
EARLY SUMMER FOR THE VISIT.

3. IF FUJINAWA NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS TIME FRAME, AND IF RPT
IF, IWATA CAN SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY ABOUT SUBJECTS OUTLINED

PARA 2 ABOVE, DOL WOULD WELCOME HIM AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR FUJINAWA. IF FUJINAWA IS AVAILABLE, HE MAY WISH TO BRING IWATA WITH HIM OR DOL WOULD WELCOME IWATA AT A LATER TIME. IWATA WITH HIM OR DOL WOULD WELCOME IWATA AT A LATER TIME.

4. IF FUJINAWA IS TO BE INVITED, DOL PLANS TO EXTEND INVITATION THROUGH EMBASSY IN LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY. IWATA WOULD BE INVITED BY DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

∴ RE DIALOGUE: DOL ENVISAGES DIALOGUE TAKING THE FORM OF A SERIES OF "MINISTRY TO MINISTRY" CONFERENCES, HELD ALTERNATIVELY IN JAPAN AND THE U.S., COVERING A NUMBER OF JOINTLY SELECTED TOPICS. CONFEREES MIGHT INCLUDE PROGRAM SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICIANS OF BOTH AGENCIES AS WELL AS MORE SENIOR OFFICERS. AS LABATT KNOWS, TRADE POLICY CONCERNS ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO DOL BUT OTHER TOPICS, SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT CREATION, LABOR STATISTICS, WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE ALSO CONSIDERED SUITABLE TOPICS. THEREFORE, TRADE SHOULD NOT BE EMPHASIZED WHEN DISCUSSING CONFERENCE TOPICS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCES WOULD BE SIMPLY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND IDEAS. THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT NORMALLY REQUIRE ACTION OR COMMITMENT BY EITHER SIDE.

6. RE CABINET LEVEL VISITS: DOL ALSO INTERESTED IN U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT BY MINISTER (REF B) AND/OR JAPAN VISIT BY SECRETARY SO LONG AS THEY WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE. SUCH VISITS MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO OPEN FIRST "MINISTRY TO MINISTRY" CONFERENCES. SHOULD SUCH TRIPS MATERIALIZE, DOL IS COGNIZANT OF THE NEED FOR CAREFUL PLANNING AND EFFORT TO MAXIMIZE P.R. EFFECT AS SUGGESTED REF A. DOL UNDERSTANDS ALSO THAT MINISTER IS NOT A LABOR SPECIALIST AND IT WOULD BE WILLING FOR MEETINGS WITH HIM TO OPERATE IN A RATHER STRUCTURED FORMAT IF THIS WOULD BE REASSURING. FIRST VISITS WOULD BE PRINCIPALLY TO PERMIT THE MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, NOT TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS OF ANY KIND (REF A). TIMING OF SUCH VISITS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH FUJINAWA BUT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE BEFORE LATE SUMMER.

7. DOL HAS DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH WAKABAYASHI, JAPAN'S LABOR COUNSELOR HERE. HE IS CAUTIOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DIALOGUE AND VISITS AND MAY VIEW THEM AS CAPSTONE TO HIS WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT. IN ANY CASE, HE WISHES TO COMMUNICATE WITH MOL BEFORE AMEMBASSY DOES. THEREFORE, DOL REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT DIRECTLY DISCUSS PROPOSALS CONTAINED HEREIN WITH MOL UNTIL DOL

NOTIFIES THAT WAKABAYASHI COMMUNICATION IS COMPLETE. IN
THE MEANWHILE, DOL WILL APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON FORE-
GOING, INCLUDING PLANS TO INVITE FUJINAWA, NATURE OF
PROPOSED CONFERENCES AND DESIRABILITY OF CABINET LEVEL
VISITS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE026272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GHALM:MKB
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0227
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802105/aaaadlbz.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 238b6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN LAB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 581, 78 TOKYO 1057
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3440291
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPANDING CONTACTS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND MINISTRY OF LABOR.
TAGS: ELAB, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/238b6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014